

I



BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year 1971



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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1971)

D.H. EVANS (Chairman of the Council)	..	..	..	Bromyard
Mrs. A.M. ROBINSON (Vice-Chairman of the Council)	..			Linton/ Brockhampton
J.T. ARNETT	..	..	..	Stoke Lacy
Major M.A. BELLVILLE (Vice-Chairman of the Health and Development Committee)				Tedstone Delamere
Mrs. J.M. BIBBINGS	..	..	..	Cradley
G.J. BOWLER	..	..	..	Moreton Jeffries/ Much Cowarne
R.G. BRADLEY	..	..	..	Cradley
V.L. BRIGDEN	..	..	..	Cradley
D. CAVE	..	..	..	Bromyard
V.O. COX	..	..	..	Norton
F.C.L. ESSENHIGH	..	..	..	Linton/ Brockhampton
M. HANCOCKS	..	..	..	Bishops Frome
O.H.M. HERFORD	..	..	..	Bredenbury/ Grendon Bishop/ Wacton
H.C.C. HODGES	..	..	..	Avenbury
A.L. JAMES	..	..	..	Whitbourne
J. JAMES	..	..	..	Bromyard
S. MEREDITH	..	..	..	Ocle Pychard
Commander E.A. NICHOLSON	..	..	..	Edvin Loach/ Saltmarshe/ Tedstone Wafre
J. POLLOCK	..	..	..	Bromyard
W.D .PORTER	..	..	..	Acton Beauchamp/ Evesbatch/ Stanford Bishop
Mrs. E.C. POWELL	..	..	..	Bromyard
J.L. POWELL	..	..	..	Edwyn Ralph/ Collington
T.I. POYNER	..	..	..	Ullingswick/ Felton
T.L. RICHARDS	..	..	..	Acton Beauchamp/ Evesbatch/ Stanford Bishop
G.A. ROPER	..	..	..	Thornbury/ Hampton Charles
Miss M. SHEPHERD	..	..	..	Whitbourne
O.J.E. SKYRM	..	..	..	Upper Sapey/ Wolverlow
D.J. THOMAS	..	..	..	Pencombe/ Grendon Warren/ Little Cowarne
Mrs. E.M. WALDRON	..	..	..	Moreton Jeffries/ Much Cowarne
J.H. WALLER (Chairman of the Health & Development Cttee)				Winslow
Rev. W.G. WALTON	..	..	..	Bishops Frome
B.W. WATERS	..	..	..	Cradley
J.R. WILKINS	..	..	..	Bromyard

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Rural District
Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1971, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

The Statistical Section provides one notable event; during the year no still births or infant deaths were recorded.

Apart from this we have continued the paradoxical experience of measles. In 1970 the district provided 110 of the 146 cases recorded in North Herefordshire, in 1971 only 28 out of 263.

During the year Councillor Mrs. Bibbings and myself continued to visit applicants for Old Peoples Welfare Housing, and make recommendations to the relevant committee. Although Mrs. Bibbings found she had to resign Council work at the end of the year, she has, I am glad to say, agreed to lend her experience to the Council and continue the task.

The Council has the following Welfare Scheme Accommodation:

<u>Bromyard</u>	1 bedroom flats, upstairs	14
1	" " downstairs	14
2	" " upstairs	8
2	" " downstairs	8
1	" bungalows	12
2	" "	14
<u>Ocle Pychard</u>	Upstairs bedsitters	4
	Downstairs "	4
	1 bedroom bungalows	4
<u>Cradley</u>	1 bedroom flats, upstairs	3
1	" " downstairs	3
2	" " upstairs	3
2	" " downstairs	3
*1	" bungalows	9

*one suitable for wheelchair tenant, and two more convertible.

There are the following applicants outstanding:

Bromyard only	33
Ocle Pychard only	2
Cradley only	1
Bromyard or other	17
Ocle Pychard or other	3
Cradley or other	5

These figures show the need for further accommodation at Bromyard: it seems that Cradley is sufficiently catered for.

The partly-shared bed-sitting rooms at Ocle Pychard are not easy to let, as they provide only minimal accommodation, though centrally heated, and the site itself, being out of a town or village centre, is not a popular one.

Future policy seems to indicate more single storey accommodation in village or town centres.

This is my farewell report, as I am leaving the Council's employment in the near future. I leave this part with great regret - I have always found meetings interesting and have received a great deal of support and friendliness from a progressive and thoughtful Council, which, regrettably, sees its own days as an independent entity much foreshortened.

I would like to thank Mr. Worsdall and Mr. Gilling for their every ready help and cooperation, and for preparing their section of this report.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

Westfield Walk,
LEOMINSTER.
(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

N.E. WORSDALL, M.R.S.H., Surveyor and Public Health Inspector,
W.R.H. GILLING, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H., Deputy Surveyor and
Deputy Public Health Inspector,
Council Offices,
BROMYARD.
(Telephone: Bromyard 2341)

Clerk of the Council: A.C. BISHOP

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	61,327
Estimated mid-year home population	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,520
Average number of persons per acre	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.14
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,850
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.05
Average number of persons per house	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.0
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£227,535
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,034

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	64	46	110
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	65	47	112

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.14	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	13.1	13.6	14.2	12.3	17.1
" " (Adjusted)	14.9	15.5	16.2	14.0	20.1*
England and Wales	16.0	16.0	16.3	16.9	17.2

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

	1971	1970
Bromyard R.D.	2.0	5.2
England and Wales	8.0	8.0

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Bromyard R.D.	Nil	17.0	8.0	18.5	13.4
England and Wales	12.0	13.0	13.0	14.3	14.8

*it is not possible to include the old U.D. figures in the adjusted birth rate for the year 1967.

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	10.0

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	12.0

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	22.0

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Bromyard R.D.	(Total	Nil	9.0	33.0	9.4	6.8
	(Legitimate	Nil	9.0	36.0	9.8	7.5
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England and Wales (Total		18.0	18.0	18.0	18.3	18.3

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	*

DEATHS

				Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:				52	59	111
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:						
Comparability factor: 0.75	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	13.0	15.0	12.7	14.3	9.9	
" " (Adjusted)	9.8	11.3	10.0	9.6	8.7**	
England and Wales	11.6	11.7	11.9	11.9	11.2	

Cancer

			Males	Females	Total	
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:			13	7	20	
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:						
		1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Bromyard R.D.	2.35	3.39	2.22	2.90	1.75	
England and Wales	*	2.36	2.35	2.27	2.27	

Cardio-Vascular Disease

			Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:			26	37	63
Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Bromyard R.D.	7.40	6.07	6.07	7.66	5.59
England and Wales	*	5.94	6.01	6.06	5.77

*Figures not yet available

**it is not possible to include the old U.D. figures in the adjusted death rate for the year 1967.

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	10	4	14

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year
home population:

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Bromyard R.D.	1.64	2.80	1.52	2.10	0.70
England and Wales	*	1.76	1.77	1.75	1.37

*figure not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	-	2
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	3	3	6
Anaemias	2	-	2
Mental disorders	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system	2	3	5
Hypertensive disease	2	4	6
Ischaemic heart disease	8	8	16
Other forms of heart disease	1	3	4
Cerebrovascular disease	9	16	25
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	3	7
Pneumonia	5	4	9
Bronchitis and emphysema	4	-	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	-	4	4
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	-	3	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	1	1
	52	59	111

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASEBromyard Rural District

Disease	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	6
Measles	28	110	22	29	90
Scarlet Fever	-	2	2	1	2
Acute Encephalitis:					
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	1	-
+Infective Jaundice	2	3	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	2	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	5	-	1	1	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	-	1	-	-	2
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	1	1	-

North Herefordshire

Whooping Cough	5	-	4	18	47
Measles	291	146	35	526	314
Scarlet Fever	6	10	4	11	11
Acute Encephalitis:					
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	1	-
+Infective Jaundice	4	10	106	8	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	2	-	-	1
Dysentery	2	2	1	17	285
Food Poisoning	11	16	9	6	10
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	7	3	4	1	3
Non-Pulmonary	2	1	2	3	2

+Notifiable from 15.6.68.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1971

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Measles	4	12	98	122	33	17	5	-	-	-	-	-	291
Scarlet Fever	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	4
Dysentery	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	11
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	7
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASEComparative figures per 1,000 population

Disease	North Here- fordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	0.14	0.35
Measles	7.90	2.77
Scarlet Fever	0.16	0.26
Infective Jaundice	0.11	0.29
Dysentery	0.05	0.22
Food Poisoning	0.30	0.14
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.19	0.19
Non-Pulmonary	0.05	0.05

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on the Register at 31st December, 1970.	17	21	6	7
New cases notified	-	-	1	-
Moved into district	-	-	-	1
Moved out of district	1	-	-	-
Recovered	1	-	-	-
Died	-	1	-	-
Died from other causes	-	1	-	-
Number on the Register at 31st December, 1971.	15	19	7	8

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1967	2	49	1	5
1968	1	49	-	-
1969	-	49	-	1
1970	2	51	-	1
1971	1	49	1	1

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORT

PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

There are now signs of more definite activity in the field of private housing development in various parts of the Rural District; even so, this is on a limited scale and therefore keeping within the spirit of the County Development Plan. The pointers are most evident in the parishes of Bromyard, Cradley and Bishops Frome and perhaps most surprisingly, Pencombe, and it could be argued that we are now beginning to see the results of providing mains water and sewerage.

During 1971 a fairly substantial development (53) was completed in Bromyard and there was certainly little difficulty in selling these houses. It has to be mentioned that quite a number were occupied by younger couples; presumably all found the inevitable mortgage repayments within their budgets.

A development in Cradley of 37 dwellings by a nationally known construction firm excited interest, and by the end of the year approximately a third of these dwellings were completed and sold.

Elsewhere in the area, development was on a single basis, nevertheless welcome, especially to those young couples who were fortunate enough to find a site upon which to build the dwelling of their choice, which is not possible where the land is gathered under the wing of a larger building concern.

Perhaps the most spectacular approach to the general problem of private development has taken place within that part of the parish of Winslow sharing a common boundary with the northern end of Bromyard. The need to provide more building land for private development in Bromyard has led to the formulation of a town development plan by the County Planning Authority. It is pleasing to record that in the three years taken to hatch this document there has been very close and friendly cooperation between the councillors and officials of both authorities, and it seems fair to mention that the rural council's willingness to provide extensive sewerage and sewage disposal facilities has encouraged the planning authority to 'release' additional areas. The Bromyard plan also deals with proposed industrial sites and certain highway matters.

IMPROVEMENTS TO PRIVATE DWELLINGS

The bare statistics are given later in this report and are an indication of the Council's efforts towards improving housing conditions with grant aid.

For many years the Council has actively encouraged improvement of existing property with grant assistance and apart from the obvious benefit of the higher standard of amenity for the tenants and owners concerned, there is the proposition that the County Development plan, which broadly speaking permits no new building outside defined centres, has put an emphasis on making full use of existing properties. Additionally, it can be said that the rescue of single and sometimes fairly isolated properties in this way, spread over a period of time, will make a contribution to the forces countering the population drift from the countryside to the urban areas.

IMPROVEMENTS TO PRIVATE DWELLINGS (Continued)

The Housing Act, 1969, introduced a general maximum of £1,000 for discretionary grants, and this, together with an ever inflationary movement in building prices, has tended to make owners interested in the discretionary grant rather than the standard grant.

At officer level there has arisen an element of anxiety concerning the treatment of dwellings which could be said to come within the heading of 'derelict'. Firstly the officer is faced with the question as to whether a certain dwelling is worthy of improvement because of its condition, and secondly he may have to consider whether the plans before him do not represent a finished product wholly out of recognition from its previous state. In these cases the officer must then face the question as to whether the project is an improvement within the spirit of the Act, or is it a 'concealed wangle' to produce what is virtually a new dwelling in an area where planning permission would not be obtained for a new dwelling, and with the aid of £1,000 of public money. There is a third point which often arises in the office when the owner of perhaps a fairly derelict house not occupied for some time, becomes excited at the possibility of making a capital gain in the present inflationary market. This owner puts the property on the market and in due time his agents or prospective purchasers appear at the office anxious to clear planning problems and quite often eager to find out whether a £1,000 grant would be forthcoming. Obviously the officer cannot promise a grant in any circumstances, certainly not with a view to that promise being used at public auction. He may also find it difficult to deal with a prospective purchaser who produces no plans and sometimes an almost incoherent idea of his or her proposals. The officer may quickly find himself in the position either of stopping or encouraging a particular sale.

HOUSING ACT, 1969 - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS(a) Discretionary Grants

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Number of houses in respect of which grants were outstanding at the end of the year	4	4
Number of houses in respect of which applications were made	30	32
Number of houses in respect of which grants were offered	30	29
Number of applications withdrawn or refused	3	3
Applications outstanding	1	5
Total grant offered in respect of above works	£18,433	£22,202

Note. The Council were awarded maximum grants in respect of substantial improvements at 21/23, Ballhurst, Bromyard.

HOUSING ACT, 1969 - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (Continued)(b) Standard Grants

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Number of applications outstanding at the end of the year	2	2
Number of houses in respect of which applications were made	24	30
Number of houses in respect of which applications were approved	26	32
Total value of grants paid during the year	£7,693	£5,957

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING(a) General

The Council made no additions to their stock of houses in 1971 either by purchase or construction.

The proposed housing estate at Acreage, Whitbourne, was planned in detail during 1971 and construction should be completed by the early winter of 1972. Initial planning for the larger estate at Quarry Meadow, Bromyard, began during the year and it is hoped that construction will begin either towards the end of 1972 or very early in 1973.

Maintenance of estates erected since the last war continued to be rather expensive even allowing for the effect of escalating costs of material and labour. It is a matter of great regret that much of the material used in the last 25 years bears no comparison to the general standard of pre-war days, and so often the bogey of bad workmanship rears its head. The thinning in the ranks of the fully trained and competent bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers, etc., is sad to behold, and in these circumstances the rise of good industrial building must be welcome.

(b) Special accommodation for elderly persons

The three estates continue to serve a most desirable need and great credit is due to the three resident wardens. Provisional arrangements have been made to convert the rather pleasant bungalows at the Schallenge and Guildway estates in Bromyard for use by elderly persons with a resident warden.

The number of elderly people will continue to grow and it is the Council's intention that another warden scheme should be provided on land they hope to purchase at the rear of the existing estate at Kirkham Garden, Bromyard.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

This type of development is envisaged only on a limited scale and is really confined to the parishes of Bromyard and Bishops Frome, although the Council lose no opportunity to support the establishment of small isolated industrial concerns elsewhere in the area and to give encouragement to existing concerns wishing to expand. It is interesting to note that the County Planning Authority now seem willing to accept small scale industry outside the main village pattern, and the fairly recent approval of a plan to fabricate agricultural buildings at a small holding in the parish of Stanford Bishop comes to mind as evidence.

Steps were taken by the Council during 1971 in laying out an area of land owned by the Council at Bishops Frome. This layout includes the provision for twelve or so new dwellings, additional garage and parking spaces, childrens playground, a cricket field, extension to the sewage works, and significantly, four industrial sites having a total area of four acres. By the year end the Council had approved the provision of storm and foul sewers, alterations and extensions to the existing highway serving the sewage disposal works, all with a view to accommodating the industrial development and providing vehicular access to the cricket ground. It is now the business of the appropriate sub-committee to find interested and suitable industrialists to occupy the four sites.

The Rural Council's ambition to extend their industrial activity near Bromyard into the Porthouse Farm area was frustrated by the inability of the District Valuer and the owners of the land to reach agreement on the purchase price. This development would tie-up with that already operating at the Three Mills Industrial Site and eventually there would be a continuous road system from the Tenbury Road through to the station industrial site with an access to the Kidderminster Road. Part of this system would use the old railway track and cutting, which the Council have already provided with a tarmacadam surface.

The establishment of light industries is not a process which takes place overnight and consequently delays in the construction of buildings in two instances at the Station Trading Estate have to be accepted. Against this it has to be noted the obvious success of two or three of the industries; already their owners are talking of producing plans for extensions. On the basis of this experience it will be prudent at the Porthouse Farm Estate (assuming we reach the stage of construction) to see that each developer has a reasonable amount of room to enlarge his business. Unfortunately leaving this additional space does from time to time create the impression on untidiness and inability to sell sites.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A sewerage scheme for the parish of Whitbourne was commissioned in the month of March and apart from a few initial teething troubles it soon settled down; the system will have a better chance of functioning efficiently as additional properties are connected. The housing site proposed to be constructed in 1972 at the Acreage will be a great help in this direction.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (Continued)

The sewerage contract for the village of Pencombe was expected to begin early in 1972 and should be completed in twelve months. Already the imminence of this scheme has encouraged applications from owners for permission to construct dwellings on land along the sewer routes.

The most costly sewerage scheme ever undertaken by the District Council began in Bromyard towards the end of 1971 and as referred to earlier, this scheme is really the foundation stone of the general development plan for Bromyard. Apart from making further development possible, the scheme will solve three other problems:

- 1, provide facilities for treatment of the contents of cesspool emptying vehicles;
- 2, overcome the flooding experienced in York Road and Cruxwell Street areas of the town, and
- 3, eliminate the small sewage disposal works at Three Mills which has been the cause of complaint.

Other parishes of the district attracted the Council's attention and our Consulting Engineers were instructed to make provisional reports for the districts of Fromes Hill, Munderfield, Upper Sapey, and Ullingswick. In addition there was a continued effort to solve the problems at Bredenbury.

WATER SUPPLY

At the 31st December 1971 there were 2,251 properties connected to Herefordshire Water Board Mains, split up between parishes as under:

Bromyard	794	Moreton Jeffries	1
Acton Beauchamp	28	Norton	89
Avenbury	41	Ocle Pychard	69
Bredenbury	12	Pencombe	40
Brockhampton	5	Saltmarshe	1
Collington	15	Upper Sapey	42
Little Cowarne	16	Stanford Bishop	25
Much Cowarne	57	Stoke Lacy	55
Cradley	353	Tedstone Delamere	24
Edvin Loach	2	Tedstone Wafre	16
Edwyn Ralph	42	Thornbury	10
Evesbatch	16	Ullingswick	26
Bishops Frome	135	Wacton	9
Grendon Bishop	34	Whitbourne	116
Linton	80	Winslow	88
		Wolferlow	10

Total: 2,251

WATER SUPPLY (Continued)

Bromyard Rural District comes within the jurisdiction of the Herefordshire Water Board; the problems now arising are relatively few and in 1971 Badley Wood was the only area which came under consideration at District Council level. Badley Wood is a lightly populated area between the villages of Whitbourne and Tedstone Wafre, omitted from the original comprehensive scheme for economic reasons, which can be dealt with as capital funds become available to the Board. The latest information is that Badley Wood should receive its water supply towards the end of 1972 or early 1973.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A new refuse vehicle was purchased during the year principally for the parish of Bromyard, and should meet that need for some years.

In the remainder of the rural district a fortnightly collection based on the paper sack system continued to operate as for the previous four years; but at an increasing number of houses additional sacks had to be left to tide over the fortnight.

Thought was given to the provision of an additional tip, this time in the parish of Stoke Lacy. Continual attention has to be paid to the prevention of rat and fly infestation, and on occasions nuisances from wasps. Tips have to be securely fenced and gated to prevent stock gaining access thereto. One drawback with small tips such as have to be operated within the Bromyard area, is that unauthorised tipping takes place so readily because at most times the tip is not attended.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

The abandoned motor vehicle seems to be a modern phenomenon and requires careful attention, preferably in close cooperation with the Police authority. Sometimes informal action has produced results but in the main the staff rely upon the official procedure for dealing with useless vehicles.

In this area one can easily come to the surprising conclusion that eyesores from abandoned vehicles on private property are more frequent than those at the side of road or on public property. It could be that private persons get 'landed' with vehicles without any idea of the best method of disposal, and possibly in the years to come the Council might think it best to offer a service on a repayment arrangement.

RODENT CONTROL

The joint scheme with the neighbouring authorities continued to operate most successfully and the value of contract work undertaken increased marginally.

There was no evidence within the area of Warfarin resistance. One of the two operatives gave notice of retirement during the year but arrangements were possible for him to guide his successor for a period.

RODENT CONTROL (Continued)

In as much as the present scheme has given rise to few, if any complaints, it may be termed successful, but the point has been reached where the two operatives can no longer take on extra contract work without reducing the frequency of calls at premises already under service contract. The annual problem as to whether to employ a third operator was again ventilated; however the departure of the senior workman focussed the committee's attention on securing a replacement to maintain the staff of two.

CARAVAN SITES

There are still a few individual licensed sites in the area and a further four or five operated on a small scale under the jurisdiction of the Caravan Club.

The two large holiday caravan sites at Bromyard and Saltmarshe continued to offer first class accommodation and to be subject to excellent management. Taken together, the sites during the summer months must make a significant contribution to the local exchequer.

FOOD INSPECTION(a) Food and Drugs Act

Number of food shops:	73
Complying with Regulation 16:	60
To which Regulation 19 applies:	12
Complying with Regulation 19:	12
Number of Public Houses:	35

(b) Slaughter of Animals Act

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

Number of licensed slaughtermen: 7

(c) Poultry Premises: NilFood Hygiene Regulations

Food surrendered or condemned:

Cooked meat and meat products	Nil
Canned meats	44 lb.
Other canned foods	6½ lb.
Other foods	Nil

50½ lb.

FACTORIES ACTSInspections

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec.1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	Nil	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A.	21	9	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found: Nil

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134): 1

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963(a) Registrations and general inspections

	Number of registered premises at the end of the year.	Number of Registered premises receiving general inspection during the year.
Offices	18	8
Retail shops	30	27
Catering establishments open to the Public, canteens	11	11
	<u>59</u>	<u>46</u>

(b) Analysis of contraventions

Section 4	Cleanliness:	1
" 9	Sanitary conveniences:	1
" 10	Washing facilities:	Nil

